

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 EB-11 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04

CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06 SWF-02 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

DRC-01 /110 W

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R 271755Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3040

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0874

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR CA

SUBJECT: SEAWAY OPENING - STRIKE SLOWS MOVEMENT

PASS AGRICULTURE: D. HUME, GRAIN & FEED DIV./FAS

REF: OTTAWA 0781, 3/18/74

1. ST. LAWRENCE OFFICIALLY OPENED MARCH 26, 1974, THE EARLIEST SEASON BEGINNING IN ITS 15-YEAR HISTORY. IN TERMS OF TRAFFIC IT WAS ONE OF THE QUIETEST.

2. APPROXIMATELY 3,750 MEMBERS OF THE SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION (SIU) HAVE BEEN ON STRIKE SINCE MARCH 15 AGAINST THE CANADIAN LAKE CARRIERS ASSOCIATION HALTING MOVEMENT OF 269 SHIPS BY 17 COMPANIES.

3. OCEAN-GOING SHIPS AND U.S. SHIPS OPERATING ON THE GREAT LAKES ARE NOT INVOLVED IN THE STRIKE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO HURT MOVEMENT OF GRAIN, COAL, CRUDE OIL, LUMBER AND IRON ORE.

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RM CANADIAN BULK CARRIER, CANADIAN HUNTER,

LOADED WITH 934,000 BUSHELS OF U.S. CORN, WAS
THE FIRST TO PASS THROUGH THE LOCKS ENROUTE TO
SOREL, QUEBEC.

5. WELLAND CANAL SECTION OF THE SEAWAY WILL
OPEN MARCH 29, ALSO A RECORD EARLY DATE.

6. THERE HAVE BEEN NO CONTRACT TALKS SINCE
THE SIU STRIKE STARTED, MAINLY OVER WAGES AND
WORKING CONDITIONS. TWO OTHER UNIONS REPRESENTING
750 DECK OFFICERS AND AN EQUAL NUMBER OF SHIPS
ENGINEERS HAVE PLEDGED NOT TO CROSS SIU PICKET
LINES.
PORTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, LABOR STRIKES, INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORTATION, CARGO SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OTTAWA00874
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740067-0041
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740311/aaaaakay.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: OTTAWA 0781, 3/18/74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <19 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEAWAY OPENING - STRIKE SLOWS MOVEMENT PASS AGRICULTURE: D. HUME, GRAIN & FEED DIV./FAS
TAGS: EAGR, CA, SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005